

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 501

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Donald L. Samuels
upon being elected National Commander of the
Disabled American Veterans.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those Tennessee citizens who, through their extraordinary professional and personal efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Donald L. Samuels is one such commendable gentleman who was unanimously elected National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) at the 90th DAV National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, promising to carry on the great traditions of DAV and pledging to leave no veteran behind, Mr. Samuels, in his new role, plans to embrace the youngest generations of veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as support key legislative initiatives, including advocating for the modernization of the Department of Veterans Affairs claims process; and

WHEREAS, honorably answering the call to military service, Mr. Samuels proudly served his country with courage and an unfailing sense of duty in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, after suffering a severe injury while leading his platoon in a Vietnam ground assault, this true American hero was discharged from the military, having received the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, two Presidential Unit Citations, and numerous other awards for his commitment to preserving our nation's freedoms and upholding its noble ideals; and

WHEREAS, Donald Samuels attended the University of Louisville, Volunteer State Community College, and Austin Peay State University and completed a difficult, 2,600 hour Veteran Affairs Training Program as well as two years of intense legal training; and

WHEREAS, a true champion of veterans, Mr. Samuels has previously held a number of influential positions within DAV, including serving as a Volunteer Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Tennessee Adjunct, Chairman of the DAV National Interim POW/MIA Committee, DAV National Senior Vice-Commander, and Supervisor of the Nashville National Service Office; and

WHEREAS, he is also a lifelong member of numerous other worthy organizations dedicated to supporting our nation's finest heroes, including serving as a valued member of Vietnam Veterans of America, American Veterans (AMVETS), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Khe Sahn Survivors, 3rd Marine Division Association, Marine Corps. League, and American Legion, and he also renders sterling service as the treasurer and member of the Board of Directors for the U.S. Community Credit Union; and

WHEREAS, from 1989 until taking a much deserved retirement in 2011, Donald Samuels served with acumen and alacrity as the Assistant Commissioner with the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs (TDVA), in which capacity he masterfully led the TDVA Claims Office and thirteen Field Offices and expertly served as the Legislative Liaison for the Department; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Samuels was named Disabled American Veteran of the Year for Tennessee in 2005; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Samuels is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife and four children, and he is especially proud of his sons and sons-in-law who have chosen to continue his legacy of military excellence and devotion to country by honorably serving in the United States Marine Corps.; and

WHEREAS, Donald Samuels's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work, common sense, and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Samuels is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Donald L. Samuels upon being elected National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, salute his stalwart dedication to our nation's veterans, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.